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brought in contact and then drawn apart, forming a little web between them which offers enough surface to the wind to be blown away, carrying out the thread with it.

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## REVIEWS.

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GRAVE-MOUNDS AND THEIR CONTENTS.\* — In this concise and remarkably interesting little volume, made doubly valuable by its 489 wood cuts, which show that the author took pencil and engraver to his work as well as his pen, pick, and spade, the student in archæology will find much to instruct and aid him in his labors.

The author calls attention to the fact that the grave-mounds of most ancient date are found in the mountainous districts, while those of a later time, though in part associated with the earlier mounds, are spread throughout the country.

In this country the term *mound* has been almost universally given to all our ancient tumuli, and to an American reader the multiplicity of British terms in common use for the same kind of ancient works is at first confusing. Hence, while the term *barrow* is in general use, *tump* is given as the synonyme in Gloucestershire, *houe* in Yorkshire, and *low* in Derbyshire, Staffordshire, etc. The term *low* is so universal in some districts, that about two hundred places in Derbyshire alone have the affix of “low,” this affix being a sure indication that a “mound” exists or has existed in the immediate vicinity.

In the second chapter our author gives an account of the construction of the mounds and the various modes of burial, both by inhumation and cremation. In the former, the bodies were most usually placed in a contracted position, lying generally on the side with the hands in front of the face and the knees drawn up, though almost every other position of the body, such as sitting, kneeling, or extended, has been noticed. In burial by cremation, the bones left after the burning of the body were gathered up and

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\* A Manual of Archæology, as exemplified in the Burials of the Celtic, the Romano-British, and the Anglo-Saxon Periods. By Llewellynn Jewitt, F.S.A., etc. With nearly five hundred illustrations. London: Groombridge and Sons, 1870. 12mo, pp. 306, cloth, full gilt.

either placed in a small heap, sometimes "covered with a small slab of stone, or wrapped in cloth or skin (the bronze pin which fastened the napkin being occasionally found), or enclosed in cinerary urns, inverted or otherwise. In some instances, even when placed in urns, they were first enclosed in a cloth." In regard to the disputed point as to the form of the barrows, "long barrow," "round barrow," etc., which some authors have considered as indicating a difference of race in the occupants, and have even gone so far as to give as a rule, "long barrows, long heads, and round barrows, round heads," our author's observations lead him to the following conclusions:—

"An examination of a very large number of barrows leads me to the opinion that the original form of all was circular, and that no deviation from that form and no difference in section, can be taken as indicative of period or of race."

In the third chapter, in giving an account of the places where the burning of bodies has taken place, he says that:—

"Wherever the burning has taken place, there is evidence of an immense amount of heat being used; the soil, for some distance below the surface, being in many places burned to a redness almost like brick. Remains of charcoal, the refuse of the funeral pyre, are very abundant, and in some instances I have found the lead ore, which occurs in veins in the limestone formation of Derbyshire, so completely smelted with the heat that it has run into the crevices among the soil and loose stones. . . . Is it too much to suppose that the discovery of lead may be traced to the funeral pyre of our early forefathers? I think it not improbable that the fact of seeing the liquid metal run from the fire as the ore which lay about became accidentally smelted, would give the people their first insight into the art of making lead."

The several facts that have been brought forward to prove that the earliest races of men were, if not habitually, occasionally cannibals, have, perhaps, not been so very conclusive as to secure general belief, but the testimony that the early races indulged to a very extensive degree in the equally degrading custom of human sacrifice has accumulated to such an extent, that it can now hardly be doubted that all races which have risen to a state as high, even, as "semicivilized," have passed through the stage of human sacrifice. That the ancient Britons were no better than the ancient Americans in this respect is suggested by the following sentence from Mr. Jewitt's work:—

"It is frequently found in barrows, where the interment has been by cremation, that there will be one or more deposits in cinerary urns, while in different parts of the mound, sometimes close by the urn, there will be small heaps of burnt bones without any urn. The probable solution of this is, that the simple heaps of bones were those of people who had been sacrificed at the death of the head of the family, and burned around him."

Much has been written, and many popular superstitions are extant, regarding the Stone, or "Druidical" Circles, and Cromlechs, or "Druid Altars." These our author disposes of, at least in part, by considering the smaller circles to be simply the outline or commencement of the mound raised over the place of burial, and the cromlechs as sepulchral chambers, denuded of the earth that once formed a mound over them. That such is the case, his own and other excavations seem most conclusively to show, but while thus reducing popular superstition to simple facts, the mystery as to the means by which the, in many instances, gigantic cromlechs were erected, is left, and it is nearly as great a one as the building of the pyramids.

In this notice we have called attention to only a few of the points treated of by Mr. Jewitt in the first chapters of his little book, relating especially to the Ancient British, or Celtic Period. He also gives an equally instructive account of more recent mounds and burials under the headings of the Romano-British and the Anglo-Saxon Period, thus bringing archæological research well into the domain of history, and in many instances getting from the graves of the dead facts with which to elucidate the history of the living.

CRUSTACEA DREDGED IN THE GULF STREAM OFF FLORIDA.\* — The rich materials dredged by M. Pourtales, in the Gulf Stream, under the auspices of the United States' Coast Survey, are gradually being published in the Bulletin of the Museum of Comparative Zoology at Cambridge. The brachyurus Crustacea, of which many new forms, both generic and specific, were discovered, are now enumerated by Dr. Simpson, with notes on their bathymetrical distribution, though most of the species were from shoal water. In a second part, the general result will be given, to which we shall allude when issued.

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\* Preliminary Report on the Crustacea dredged in the Gulf Stream in the Straits of Florida; by L. F. de Pourtales. Part I, Brachyura. Prepared by Dr. William Stimpson. 8vo. pp. 109-160. Cambridge, 1870.